

Application No.: 09/543,011

Please add claim 31 as follows:

--31. (New) A frame kit for an IC card, comprising:

a generally U-shaped frame fabricated from an injection molding material and having an inner wall defining an internal space confined within the frame;

a first panel fabricated from metal material and including a L-shaped locking member having a hanging portion and a locking claw portion with the hanging portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion connected to the hanging portion being integrally molded with the frame such that the first panel is connected to the frame as a result of the hanging portion and the rear segment being embedded into and thereby held in the frame, wherein a front segment of the locking claw portion connected to and extending from the rear segment projects out from the inner wall and into the internal space; and

a second panel fabricated from metal material and having an engaging locking member having an engaging hole which is engageable with the front segment of the locking claw portion to connect the second panel to the frame such that, when the engaging locking member and the engaging hole are engaged, the engaging hole receives the front segment and the engaging locking member surrounds the front segment of the locking claw portion and facially contacts the inner wall of the frame.--

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-12, 14, 15, 17-26 and 28-31 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 31 is added.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10, 21, 25 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as anticipated by Onoda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,994,769). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Onoda teaches an IC card that includes an electrical circuit board in which at least one electronic component is incorporated, a connector to be connected to an end portion of the electrical circuit board, a frame which constitutes an outer frame of the IC card and a pair of metal panels which cover of sides of the IC card. A plurality of projections engage with each other and are provided on side edge portions of each